

evening at animas forks

- # In Brief

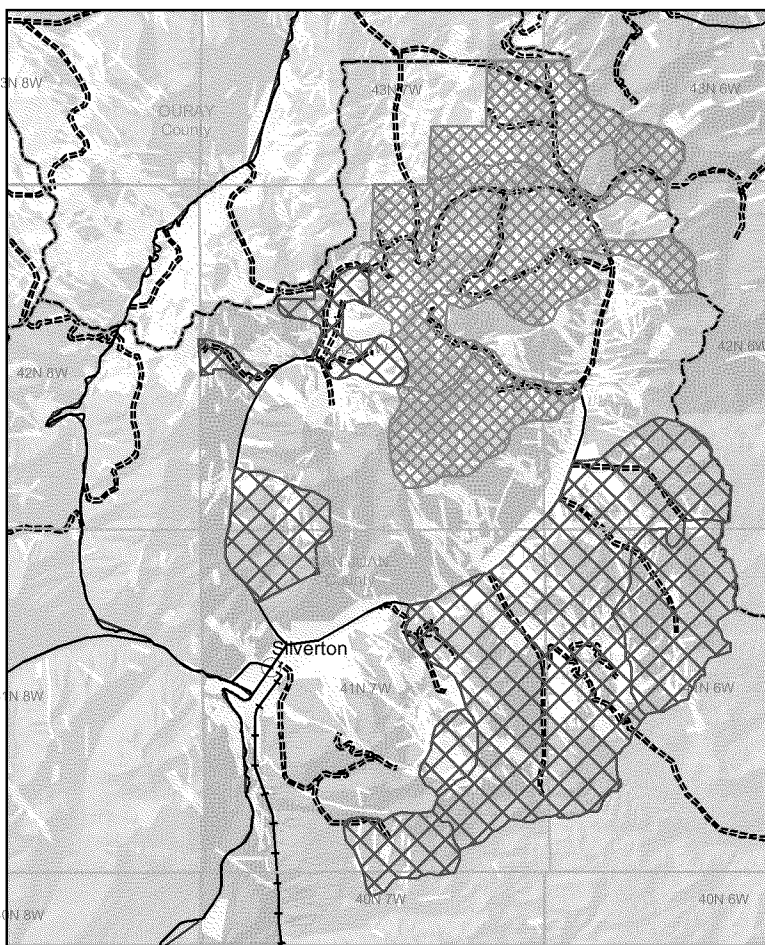
A black and white photograph of a two-story wooden house with a bay window and a chimney, situated in a mountainous area with a cloudy sky. The house is constructed of horizontal wooden siding and has a steep gabled roof. A single chimney is visible on the roofline. The front facade features a large bay window on the right side and several other windows, some of which are partially obscured by dense, low-lying shrubs in the foreground. The house is set against a backdrop of a steep, grassy hillside dotted with evergreen trees. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall tone is somber and atmospheric.

Ray Dileo/Silverton Standard & the Miner

Some want heli-skiers to buzz off

But proposed shift in terrain also finds support from many

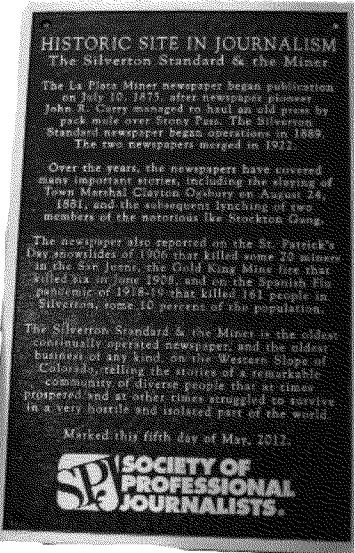
"We asked the BLIM to help us



uses not intended by the BLM. Spatial data may not meet the National Map Accuracy Standards.

Aaron Brill, owner of Silverton Mountain Ski Area, explained

Silverton Standard
& the Miner
A National Historic
Site in Journalism



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Our goals
The Silverton Standard & the
Miner is a weekly newspaper
written for people interested in
the issues and news of Silver-
ton, Colo., and the surround-
ing San Juan Mountains region.
The Standard voices a strong
sense of community for Sil-
verton and the San Juans as it
brings you the issues, charac-
ters, landscapes, and the talent
of the region. Stressing in-
depth, balanced, and thought-
ful writing, news, photography,
and topical articles on key
issues affecting the region, the
Standard keeps the greater San
Juan community informed,
entertained, provoked, and
engaged in dialogue about the
community and its future.
Letters to the editor may be
edited for length or content.

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& the Miner

Rage against the latrine removal

By Mark Esper

As of Friday, July 31 the main-
tenance of the toilets at Molas Pass
and Coal Bank will be unfunded
and the word is that the Forest
Service intends to lock up the
facilities at High Noon tomorrow.
Those facilities get a lot of use
and make the drive from Duran-
go to Silverton more comfortable
for our many summer visitors.
Closing them in peak season
is not a good idea and likely to
create a bit of a mess up there.

Editor's Opinion

It's really inexcusable that the
Forest Service would actually tear
down those structures, which
serve such an ... urgent need, as
any "relief map" would show.
As Town Trustee Malcolm Mac-
Dougall suggested at the Town
Council meeting Monday night,
it may be time for some militant
action, if not some bathroom
humor. Rage against the latrine
removal!
Seriously, it's important infra-

structure. Nothing to poo-poo
about, but helpful for many users
and we need to find a way to
flush out the \$4,000 a year need-
ed to keep them open.
The Forest Service is pleading
poverty. Columbine Ranger
District officials say their budget
is bleak and they've just been
dealt a crappy hand. CDOT wants
nothing to do with it. And I actu-
ally brought the issue up with the
governor when he was here a few
weeks ago and forwarded more
See EDITOR, Page 10



Keeping cool and dry

By Freddie Canfield

El Nino Secco. The Dry Baby.
After a trace to more than a half inch of
rain every day in July, through 7 a.m. on July
20, your correspondent was left high and dry
most mornings this weather week. Frost on car
Wednesday with only a few big drops later on.
Nothing out of the clouds on Thursday. Friday
after 7 a.m., hardly perceptible droplets gradu-
ally building into periods of light rain. So it was
to be throughout the San Juans and also in the
high desert surrounding.
Even Montrose, with a forecast of 89, proved
to be surprisingly endurable mid to upper 60s in
the early afternoon. Always a treat to beat the
heat when you absolutely have to make a run
down yonder!
It all led Saturday morning to ground fog soft-
ening visual perspective within one block and
obscuring all at an altitude above treetop level
over Silverton. Breathing in cool dampness.
Yoga, barefoot on a damp deck. Sounds of white
water. Slight breeze. Cocooning fog slowing
giving way to ever expanding clarity.
Snow patches on upper Kendall. Glistening

Weather and Observations

Date	High	Low	Precip., conditions
July 15	71	37	Clear
July 16	71	35	Clear
July 17	68	36	.11, clear
July 18	66	37	.33, foggy mix
July 19	66	38	.02, clear mix
July 20	70	39	.01, Partial mix
July 21	69		Mostly clear
2.21 water July to date			

red rock on Anvil. Crows call. Swallows swoop
and dive. Aspens quake as fog swirls.
El Nino secco. Only a trace on Saturday which
for this musician and his band mates with 2
Little O2 lasted into Sunday morning playing
for an absolutely joyful, high-energy wedding
reception among many friends new and old
over at Kendall Mountain Community Center.
Cool night air outside, counterbalancing the
heat of the dance. Then completely nailing a
four-part acapella harmony on Sunday morn-
ing with four hours of sleep, which can only
See WEATHER, Page 3

Standard gauge in Durango?

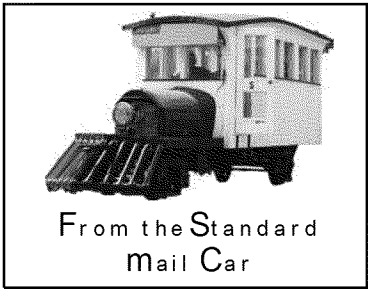
By Don Stott

Silverton was called "The Nar-
row Gauge Capital of the World"
at one time, because there were
four different narrow-gauge lines
converging in Silverton.
Durango however, has to
be the only railroad town in
the U.S., which had a stan-
dard-gauge line built and oper-
ated into a narrow-gauge center

guest Opinion

of operations. It was a long time
ago, and most locals and even
rail fans don't realize that indeed
a standard-gauge line was built
from scratch into Durango.
The Farmington, N.M., area,
later became rich in oil explo-
ration and production. That oil
business boom came, and was
fed by the narrow-gauge Farm-

ington Branch, and was respon-
sible for the narrow-gauge lines
from Alamosa to Durango, and
on to Farmington, being kept
alive for many decades, till they
were abandoned in 1970.
But when the Farmington line
between Durango and Farming-
ton was constructed in 1905,
there had been no oil explora-
tion, and in 1905, there were
See STOTT, Page 10



Thanks, firefighters,
for a great 4th show!
Editor;
I would really like for you
to thank the Fireman for the
wonderful fireworks show on the
Fourth.

It seems that all the town and
county want to do is to constantly
pick on them. They put many
man-hours preparing for
the show on the Fourth. I'm sur-
prised that the town board and/or
the commissioners have not pub-
licly thanked them as the Fourth
brings thousands of people to
town — more than the Hardrock
100 I might add.
— Barbara Renowden, Silverton

Please don't kick
OHVs out of town

Dear Mayor, town trustees,
newspaper editor and public;
We have been coming to Sil-
verton for the past several years.
Our group is as large as 20 to 30
mature adults. We love it here and
want to continue coming every
summer.
It has been a joy to us to be able
to ride our OHVs in town on the
designated routes. This allows
us to shop and eat at the local
restaurants.
It has come to our attention
that a small group of residents
(full and part-time) are attempt-
ing, for reasons that are senseless,
to overturn the ordinance that
allows OHVs in the town limits.
Our OHVs are quieter than diesel
trucks, dirt bikes and Harleys. The
amount of dust that is created is
minimal compared to automo-
biles and trucks.
It's obvious to all of us that
business has increased due to
allowing OHVs in the town limits.
We have chatted with many shop
and restaurant owners who have
welcomed our business and who
have no problem with the OHV
traffic in town. We talked with
Mayor Tookey and she expressed
her welcoming attitude toward
OHVs in town.

If this small group of full and
part-time residents are successful
in their endeavors to stop OHVs
in town, our group will stop visit-
ing Silverton and find someplace
else where increased business is
welcome.
We might add that we have
See LETTERS, Page 10

Write to us

The Silverton Standard & the
Miner welcomes letters to the
editor. Send letters via e-mail
to editor@silvertonstandard.
com, or via snail mail to, Ed-
itor, Silverton Standard & the
Miner, P.O. Box 8, Silverton,
CO 81433.
Signed letters and articles
are the responsibility of the
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represent the opinion of the
editor. Letters to the editor
should be no longer than
300 words and will be edited
at the editor's discretion for
length. Letters should be per-
tinent to community issues.
Opinion pieces longer than
300 words will be published
at the editor's discretion.

Sold for \$417,000



Ray Dileo/Silverton Standard & the Miner

The Pride of the West Mill in Howardsville was sold in a sheriff's sale Thursday morning, July 23, to satisfy a \$417,000 judgment against Colorado Gold fields in a long and complicated civil case that was tried in Jefferson County two years ago. At upper right, San Juan County Sheriff Bruce Conrad conducts the sale as Undersheriff Steve Lowrance observes. There were no bidders at the sale, which means that Todd Hennis (left using cell phone) is essentially the new owner, though a handful of secured creditors could file liens against the mill prior to an Aug. 4 deadline. The judgment is the result of a lawsuit between Hennis and Colorado Gold fields Inc. The assessor's office currently values the 118 acres of land and structures at \$767,082. Personal property on the site is valued at \$208,703. Hennis has not said what he intends to do with the mill.

Flare up over fire department finance

Silverton San Juan County Fire Chief Gilbert Archuleta and County Commissioner Pete McKay got into a brief spat Wednesday, July 22, over whether the fire authority, which is funded by the town and county, should be audited. Fire department officials were appearing before the county commissioners to review the agency's budget. Ron Renowden, treasurer for the department, pointed out that the fire authority is exempt from state requirements for audits since its budget is "significantly less than \$750,000 a year." McKay suggested it may be a good idea to have an audit even though it isn't required by law. "We feel we're kind of being singled out here," Archuleta responded. He said if town and county official want to audit the fire department, then the

ambulance service "and everybody else" should face the same thing. "It shouldn't be singled out to one organization," Archuleta said. "To say you're going to pick on the fire department is kind of one-sided. It's basically the way things go around here. Certain people think they keep having to pick on the fire department." Archuleta said the fire department's budget "has nothing hidden. It's all black and white." "I wouldn't personalize this," McKay responded. "An audit is not a bad thing. I wonder why you're personalizing this." "Then why aren't you including any other organizations for audits?" Archuleta fired back. County Commissioner Scott Fetchenhier then stepped into the fray and said he saw no

need for an audit for the fire authority's meager budget. "I think what I'm seeing here is sufficient," Fetchenhier said after reviewing the department's financial records. "An audit could cost \$4,000 to \$7,000 and would be a waste of taxpayer dollars." "I agree with you, Fetch," said County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman. "I don't think an audit is appropriate at this time and if it ever is I will certainly call for it." Archuleta pointed out that through June 22 the department has donated 968 man-hours to the community. It has responded to eight reports of structural fires and four motor vehicle accidents. The fire authority budget report covering the period from Jan. 1 to June 18, 2015 showed total income of \$53,210, including \$16,850 from individuals and businesses and \$36,360

in support from the town, county and other entities. Total expenses in that period came to \$31,584.51, including \$17,250.31 for facilities and equipment, \$5,258.83 for operations, \$1,961.32 for insurance and training, \$1,349.70 for member incentives and \$55.33 for travel and meetings.

Housing Survey coming in the mail

Dear San Juan County Residents,

You will be receiving by mail a short, confidential housing survey aimed at residents, employers and property owners to help us identify the current and future housing demands for Silverton and San Juan County. This survey is very similar to the survey distributed for the now outdated 2008 Housing Needs Assessment and had a response rate of 25% for residents and 34% for employers. It would be great if everyone helped us improve on those response rates.



Please fill out the survey by Friday, July 31st and either drop off at the San Juan County Clerk's Office or mail it to San Juan County Administrator, PO Box 466, Silverton, CO 81433. For your convenience the survey is also available on-line and can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SanJuanCountyHousing2015>.

All responses will be summarized as part of the housing report, due to be released on Friday, August 7th. Questions concerning this survey should be addressed to William Tookey, San Juan County Administrator via email at sanjuancounty@frontier.net or by phone at 970-387-5766.

We would like to thank everyone for taking a few minutes to complete this survey.

Sincerely, Ernest F. Kuhlman,
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

WEATHER, from Page 2

be attributed to grace. Down to the water on Monday. The river of soul. Neither heart stopping nor bone chilling. Powerfully life changing instead. Overhead a big shift as a cool rather than cold front blew in out of the northwest. Hold-on-to-your-hat southwest and then southeast wind preceded.

Tuesday was a totally Beautiful Day! A fully head-over-heals in love with life Rocky Mountain High experience, one where you wait until after sundown to leave the Great Outdoors behind, absolutely unwilling to miss a moment of it. One thing more — this delicious day began with a bit of light frost on the ground at 33.4 degrees.

Wednesday morning, virtually clearly with little indication of monsoon activity of consequence likely before August begins. We are close to July average of precipitation, 2.23 inches. Personally your cooperative weather observer prefers precipitation, what shall it be? Bright moon. Beautiful flowers. Every reason to get out where you really belong.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

5606 if you would like to share your craft. We welcome all crafters! Remember, you are never too old to learn or to teach others something new.

Brunch to welcome town administrator

A community brunch to welcome Bill Gardner to the position of Silverton town administrator will be held Saturday, Aug. 1 at 10 a.m. in the backyard of 453 E. 16th Street (on the river). What to Bring? A dish to share and a lawn chair, if you have one handy. Everyone is invited. Questions? Call 387-5165. Sponsors: Cynthia Chertos and Bill Dodge, Carol Chance and John Poole, Sue and Terry Morris.

Four vacancies on school board in Nov. 3 election

Four seats on the five-member Silverton school board (formally known as the San Juan County Board of Education) will be up for election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Board President Keri Metzler is term-limited from running again. Seats held by Natalie Rieboldt, Deanna Claussen and Vanessa Roberts are also up for election, with two 2-year terms and two 4-year terms available. Those current board members are eligible to run again.

Candidates must be a registered voter and a resident of the school district for at least 12 consecutive months before the election. Candidates must electronically file, via the TRACER online disclosure system, a Candidate Affidavit with the Secretary of State's office within 10 days of becoming a candidate. <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Campaign-Finance/filing.html>

Petition packets will be available at the Silverton School office: 1160 Snowden St, and can begin circulation on Aug. 5. 25 valid signatures are required. Petitions must be notarized and delivered to the San Juan County Clerk's office, Ladonna Jaramillo: 1557 Greene St, on or no later than Aug. 28, by 4 p.m.

San Juan County Sheriff's Office blotter

Mixup over a handbag; OHVs stray off route

By Sheriff Bruce Conrad

July 20 — Responded to a report of trespassing campers; required them to get permission from land owner or move camp. Responded to a report of a possible trespass at the Mayflower Mill; unfounded. Issued a verbal warning for speeding in town. Report of OHVs off route on Cement Street; unable to contact. Received found property. Issued a verbal warning for speeding on the highway. Asked a weaving highway motorist to perform roadside maneuvers; negative on impairment. Conferred with BLM officers regarding a horse complaint. An officer qualified with a new sidearm, it's not a Glock, but it shoots real nice. Unable to locate a vehicle complained about by another motorist on the highway. Returned a found wallet to its owner by mail. Sheriff Conrad had a very good meeting with our new Town Administrator; welcome Mr. Gardner, we look forward to working with you.

July 21 — Performed a VIN verification. Dealt with lost property returns. Issued a verbal warning to a motorist who left their diesel vehicle running for an extended period of time to keep Fido comfy. Served civil papers. Another found phone reunited with its owner. Sheriff Conrad attended the South west Law Enforcement Training Association meeting in Durango, securing scholarship funds for upcoming trainings.

July 22 — Undersheriff Lowrance spent the day certifying Deputy Tanner on radar operations. Issued Craig Clark, of Glenview, Ill., a \$75 citation for OHV where prohibited. Issued three verbal warnings for speeding on the HWY and one for following too closely. Issued a verbal warning for parking in a handicapped space. Issued written warning to an OHV parked where prohibited. Prepared for upcoming sheriff's sale. Followed up with state liquor control inspectors after four Silverton establishments were written summons for liquor code violations. Downtown foot patrol. The sheriff "stole" someone's handbag — thinking it was lost — and tried to return it to the person who was thinking it was stolen (oops). Attempted to locate an OHV complaint, unable. Issued a verbal warning to an OHV speeding in town.

July 23 — Received a report of an overdue person; officer found at home in 6 minutes, serve and protect ma'am, serve and protect. Mailed a cell phone back to its owner. Issued Gary Pevey, of Breckenridge, Texa, a \$75 citation for OHV where prohibited. Received a parking complaint; vehicle moved before officer arrived. Prepared new (donated) lights for the new (used) search & rescue vehicle. Backcountry OHV patrol to blow the cobwebs out of our OHV, and ensure officers are proficient at operating the vehicle. Fixed a leaking tire on

a patrol vehicle. Gave a courtesy ride to a party stranded by a disabled motor home. Issued Robert Futscher, of Oro Valley, Ariz., a careless-driving citation after the vehicle he was driving left the roadway. Downtown foot patrol. Conducted a sheriff's sale on the courthouse steps in which the default bid of roughly \$420,000 was not exceeded. Issued Richard Schreiner, of Woodland Park, Colo., a \$75 citation for OHV where prohibited. Even more paperwork regarding the sheriff's sale. Issued Shawn Barbour, of Lubbock, Texas, a \$75 citation for OHV where prohibited.

July 24 — Answered questions about OHV rules in the town and county, imagine that, someone taking the time to find out what the rules are BEFORE breaking them. Continued set up of search & rescue vehicle; many thanks to Dan Long for his skills and efforts in preparing our new (used) rig. Performed a civil standby. Issued a written warning to an OHV parked off the route. Officers practiced standard field sobriety test procedures. It's really easy to walk home when you've unexpectedly had too much to drink in Silverton; don't make us practice these things on you. Foot patrol in the business district.

July 25 — Report of a reckless driver on the highway; unable to locate. More questions regarding OHV use in town. Responded to an OHV accident/ medical call on the Ouray side of Corkscrew

Pass. Received an unfounded report of overdue campers, who walked out without assistance. Investigated a report of a suspicious person in the park; the gentleman was just editing photos. Assisted Colorado State Patrol with a motorcycle accident on the highway. Responded to a vicious dog report on the highway; owner chose to put the dog down.

July 26 — Issued two verbal warnings for parking violations. Unable to locate a reported OHV off the route. More property lost, found, and returned. Again out of position to meet some OHVs off the route. Investigated another report of a stolen vehicle that was actually misplaced. Responded to an accident involving a towed jeep coming disconnected from the truck towing it, and going over the edge. Issued a written warning to an OHV parked off the route. Received a report of OHVs off the route, unable to locate. Even more questions regarding OHV use in town; maybe there is hope. Issued a verbal warning for careless driving to a motorist in town. Downtown foot patrol.

Town Hall has made available a liquor code handbook I would encourage all establishments holding a liquor license to become familiar with. Your liquor license is dependent on adhering to these laws, and it is your responsibility to know the rules.

John Wesley Goff dies at age 77

John Wesley Goff, Jr. was born in Mancos on January 31, 1938, and passed away June 29, 2015 at his home in Salt Lake City.

His parents were Ethyl Bell Grimes and longtime Silverton resident John Wesley Goff, Sr.

Wesley moved to Silverton in the late 1940s with his father and stepmother, Geneva. He lived there until he joined the Navy. He worked part-time in some of the area mines and was an "extra" in a few of the Western movies filmed in Silverton during the 1950s.

He is survived by three daughters who all live in California and half-sisters Catherine (Goff) Whitted, Bedford, Ind., and Marlene (Goff) Dietz, Albuquerque.

Hardrockers Holidays Aug. 7-9

Silverton's annual celebration of its mining heritage is scheduled for Aug. 7-9 at Kendall Mountain Recreation area, with kids' events on Friday and adult competition Saturday and Sunday.

Sponsors who want to be listed in the program need to contact Judy Kuhlman by Friday.

COMING EVENTS

- August 2015**
- Aug. 1-2** — Mountain Man Softball Tournament, ballfield at Visitors Center
 - Aug. 7-9** — Hardrockers Holidays, Kendall Mountain Recreation Area
 - Aug. 14-16** — Great Western Rocky Mountain Brass Band Festival, Silverton School Gym
 - Aug. 13-16** — True West Railfest, Durango and Silverton
 - Aug. 14-20** — Annual 1-2-3-6 Day Run & 1,000 Mile Challenge www.silverton1000.com
 - Aug. 22** — Silverton Alpine Marathon & 50K, Memorial Park
 - Aug. 29** — Dillon's Run, Kendall Mountain Recreation Area
- September 2015**
- Sept. 4-5** — Fourth Annual Silverton Western Movie Festival, Silverton School Performing Arts Center
 - Sept. 4-7** — Silverton All School Reunion
 - Sept. 12-13** — Silverton Quilt Show and Sale, Silverton School gym
 - Sept. 18-19** — Step Back in Time. www.stepbackintime.com
 - Sept. 26-27** — DSNGR Fall Photographer's Weekend
- October 2015**
- Oct. 31** — Last train to Silverton
- November 2015**
- Nov. 26** — Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Brown Bear Cafe
- December 2015**
- Dec. 5** — Yule Log Festival, Kendall Mountain Recreation Area
 - Dec. 12** — Holiday Bazaar, American Legion Hall
 - Dec. 12** — Holiday Community Dinner, Kendall Mountain Recreation Area
 - Dec. 24** — Santa Comes To Town, 1 p.m. at Town Christmas Tree
 - Dec. 25** — Annual Community Christmas Dinner, Silverton School

Silverton Standard & the Miner

A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN JOURNALISM

Mountain Happenings

- Monday, July 27**
- **Silverton Town Council**, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.
- Aug. 1-2**
- **Mountain Man Softball Tournament**, ballfield at Visitors Center.
- Tuesday, Aug. 4**
- **Silverton Threads presentation by Linda Porter on how to knit a scarf**, 7 p.m., Kendall Mountain Community Center.
- Friday, Aug. 7**
- **Andrew Gulliford presentation: "Outdoors in the Southwest,"** 7 p.m., Town Hall. Free admission, donations accepted.
- Aug. 7-9**
- **Hardrockers Holidays mining competition**, Kendall Mountain Recreation Area.
- Monday, Aug. 10**
- **Silverton Town Council**, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12**
- **San Juan County Board of Commissioners**, 8:30 a.m., County Courthouse.
- Ongoing**
- **Belly Dance at Silverton Soulworks**: Tuesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m. Belly Dance 2 (w/ instructor approval); 6:30-7:30 p.m., Belly Dance Flow / Drills (alternating

- weeks, all levels) Wednesdays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Zumba; Thursdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m., Zumba. All are at Silverton Soulworks and prices are \$12 drop in or \$10 with a Caldera 10 Punch Pass.
- **Salsa classes** Wednesday nights, 6:30 p.m., at Soulworks. For more information, contact Noah Chutz at nchutz@gmail.com.
 - **Silverton Threads Quilting Club**, 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Kendall Mountain Community Center. All interested in quilting, crochet, knitting, and crafts are invited.
 - **San Juan County Historical Society Archive** — Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - **Blair Street Historic District Association**, 5 p.m., first Wednesday of each month, Empire Street Bunkhouse.
 - **Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in Silverton every Wednesday at 7 p.m. For locations, questions or help, call (888) 333-9649.

- Spiritual Events**
- **Church of Christ**, Sundays: Bible class, 8 a.m.; service, 9 a.m.; and Sunday Bible discussion, 5 p.m., (970) 946-7648.
 - **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**, Father Nat Foshage, Mass, 5 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays, 1005 Reese St., 325-4373.

What's Happening?

Got somethin' goin' on? Contact the Standard. Phone 387-5477, e-mail editor@silvertonstandard.com

Town extends moratorium as it ponders weekly rentals

By Mark Esper

Town officials are still mulling over regulations of weekly rentals of residential homes and have extended the moratorium on processing new applications for another 90 days.

An emergency ordinance to that effect passed unanimously Monday night, July 27.

Town Administrator Bill Gardner said that he spoke with managers and administrators from small towns across Colorado struggling with the same issue.

“They’re experiencing the exact same problem and not one administrator or manager had a recommendation,” Gardner said. “And it’s a big problem. They don’t have housing for their work force so it creates problems for businesses in town — and worse problems for families and people who want to live in the community.

“It’s a tough issue and one I would suggest that for you as policy makers is a big one,” Gardner told the council.

Mayor Chris Tookey said that the town allowing a few vacation rentals has “kind of morphed” into something else, with dozens of homes now permitted to be operated as short-term rentals.

And Trustee David Zanoni suggested there are probably a number of “black market” rentals also happening, with some owners evading town rules and lodging fees.

As for how to address the issue, Trustee Malcolm MacDougall said he is on the case.

“I have a huge list of some things we can do. I will have a million ideas to present to this board about what can be done and should be done.”

MacDougall said he’s done a lot of research to use about what other communities are doing to address the issue.

Final report from Mark Garcia

Interim Town Administrator Mark Garcia gave his final report to the Town Council on Monday.

He started off by thanking the fire department for the great fireworks show on the Fourth of July.

And Garcia highlighted a number of matters than remain on unfinished.

Work is under way on a Westside Improvement District whereby property owners on the lower Shrine Hill would vote on a plan to finance infrastructure to allow development of homes there.

Town staff is meeting with the property owners to gauge support for a plan to have it on the ballot for the November 2015 election.

“That’s the next step if they decide to do it,” Garcia said.

“This is my last meeting with you as interim administrator but identified a number of work items,” Garcia said. And he offered his services to help.

He said the town’s Municipal Code is badly in need of being reorganized, given many new ordinances in recent years.

“It would be big help for

business and growth to have a codified code,” Garcia said.

“I could also take on annexation of Anvil Mountain,” Garcia said. “The time is right to move that project forward and annexation is probably the first step.”

The county-owned workforce housing subdivision at the south end of Silverton has infrastructure in place but the county has struggled to find developers interested in taking on the task of building homes.

Town having good year with rec revenue

Town-operated recreational facilities are having a banner year, according to Deputy Town Clerk Darlene Watson.

In a report to the Town Council she said the town spent \$14,248 to set up and operate campgrounds near the depot and at Kendall Mountain to accommodate the huge Fourth of July crowds.

But the town grossed \$25,683 in revenue for a net profit of \$11,434.

That’s after paying the Silverton School Boosters Club \$5,500 to operate the campgrounds.

“We brought in \$9,183 more than 2014,” Watson said. “Our partnership with Silverton Public School is an excellent relationship.”

She recommended the Council contract with the school booster club in the future

She suggested spending the money on night-lighting for skiing at the town-owned Kendall Mountain ski area.

Trustee David Zanoni suggested, however, that a more pressing need is to get the ski area’s ski shop into a separate building from the Kendall Mountain Community Center.

Watson said she is forming a Silverton Events Committee comprised of key people such as EMS, fire department, Chamber, town, sheriff’s office and business owners to “to show event organizers coming to Silverton that we’re ready for them and that we have the resources to handle their events.”

And Watson reported that Molas Lake Park is “doing awesome!”

Revenue from operating the campground so far this summer is \$66,192, compared to a total of about \$58,000 for all of last summer. And there are still plenty of campsites available in September.

And Watson said rental fees for the Kendall Mountain Community Center have brought in \$18,505 so far this year.

“We have five weddings booked already for 2016 totaling \$7,875,” plus others in the works.

ATV enforcement remains an issue

A Monday night Town Council meeting in Silverton in the summer would not be complete without Cement Street resident John Poole again expressing dissatisfaction over the OHV traffic on his street, where they are not supposed to be operated.

But he started out by thanking the Town for the new sign at the northern end of the street indicating it was closed to OHVs.

“There still are a number of OHV users, mostly earlier and later in the day, that ignore that. Some people are still driving right through that sign.”

He requested the town put up a similar sign at 14th and Cement to prevent the bandit vehicles from the street.

“I’m getting a bit impatient with people who are not longer just ignorant of the law but are just flat out ignoring the law. This is the kind of visitors I don’t want in town.”

Poole added that while he thinks most OHV operators are responsible, more enforcement is needed to keep them on the proper town routes.

“I suspect that some of the ones who see the signs now speed up so no one will see them,” Poole said. “I’d like to see them pay a \$75 fine.”

Town Trustee Pete Maisel pointed out that more tickets are being given as evidenced by a report from San Juan County Sheriff Bruce Conrad.

And he said the town would be glad to consider additional signage and other ideas.

“Maybe we can work something out here,” Maisel said.

Meanwhile figures released by the sheriff’s office indicate 29 OHV citations issued so far this year.

Top of Bullion King Road closed

The top portion of the Bullion King Road (Forest Road#822), which provides access to Porphyry Basin and Bullion King Lake on the San Juan National Forest in San Juan County, will be temporarily closed to motor vehicles from July 27 through Sept 30.

The closure is necessary due to mine reclamation that includes construction of a mine waste repository under the direction of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety.

The closure is due to safety considerations, as heavy equipment will be used to move mine

waste and other materials, and to haul materials in the area of the narrow upper portion of the four-wheel-drive road.

Visitors will still be able to park at or below mile point 1.7, where the road narrows, as long as their vehicles are parked outside of the travel way. The public will still be able to walk the upper portion of the road to access areas outside of the construction zone.

Caution is urged when traveling through this area and visitors should be ready to yield to all construction vehicles and equipment operating in the area.

For more information, contact San Juan National Forest Engineer Mary Blanchard, 970 385-1319.



Community brunch to welcome Bill Gardner to the position of Silverton town administrator


Saturday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m.
at the backyard of 453 E. 16th Street (on the river).

What to Bring? A dish to share and a lawn chair, if you have one handy.

Everyone is Invited.

Questions? Call 387-5165

Sponsors: Cynthia Chertos and Bill Dodge, Carol Chance and John Poole, Sue and Terry Morris.



Upper Animas Mining District

Summer/Fall Field Activities

Soil and Sediment Sampling — Week of August 3, 2015 (Tentative)

As part of this sampling event, EPA will be collecting soil and sediment samples at approximately 80 mines, waste piles and tailings areas. EPA also will be conducting a more intensive investigation of the deposited material within the Upper Animas floodplain between Niagara Gulch and Maggie Gulch, which will require digging test pits down to groundwater with mechanical equipment at select locations. Project Contact: Dan Wall, 303-312-6560, 800-227-8917, ext. 312-6560.

Red and Bonita Bulkhead Construction — July 15, 2015 through September 30, 2015


EPA is installing an engineered, reinforced bulkhead to control the discharge of contaminated water coming out of the Red and Bonita Mine adit and flowing into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River. EPA also plans to remove the blockage and reconstruct the portal at the Gold King Mine to observe possible changes in discharge caused by the installation of the Red and Bonita Mine bulkhead. Project Contact: Steve Way, 303-312-6723, 800-227-8917, ext. 312-6723.

Low-Flow Surface Water Sampling — Week of October 5, 2015

EPA will be conducting low-flow surface water sampling as a follow up to the high-flow sampling that occurred in June 2015. Surface water samples will be taken at approximately 115 locations, including discharging mines and the Upper Animas River and its tributaries. Sediment samples will also be collected from approximately 60 locations along the Upper Animas River and select tributaries, including Burrows Creek, North Fork Animas River, California Gulch and Eureka Gulch. Project Contact: Dan Wall, 303-312-6560, 800-227-8917, ext. 312-6560.

For more information or to receive future notifications, please contact:
Cynthia Peterson, Community Involvement Coordinator
1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202
303-312-6879, 800-227-8917, ext. 312-6879
peterson.cynthia@epa.gov

Or visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/upper-animas-mining-district>





Work at the red & Bonita



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner
Contractors for the EPA are working on a \$1.5 million project to bulkhead the Red & Bonita Mine above Gladstone. However flow from the mine is heavy. A small treatment facility, upper left, has been built below the mine portal to lower the pH and drastically reduce the metals loading of the acid-mine drainage, with much clearer water emerging to empty into Cement Creek. The thick concrete plug that will be installed in the leaking portal will include a valve that can allow the mine to drain if necessary or to serve as a conduit to a permanent treatment facility if necessary.

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+ Aug 11 — Anita Field, “Cloth Baskets”

+ Aug 18 — Surprise Demo! Come and see!

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Community Center

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h a r m o n y
I n t o w n



The annual Silverton Barbershop Music Festival concert drew a large crowd to the Silverton School gym Saturday night, July 25.
TOP: The Durango Narrow Gauge Chorus performs.
LEFT: The Grand Junction Bookcliff chorus.
ABOVE: The Black Canyon Chorus.

4th Movie Festival
lineup: ‘Ticket to
Tomahawk,’ ‘D&RG’

The fourth annual Silverton Western Movie Festival is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, with movies on Friday and Saturday night, Sept. 4-5.

- This year’s lineup:
- Friday, Sept. 4 — “Denver & Rio Grande,” the 1952 movie chronicling the conflict and struggle to build the railroad.
 - Saturday, Sept. 5 — Back by

popular demand, “A Ticket to Tomahawk,” the funnest film ever made in Silverton! The Tomahawk & Western Railroad needs to deliver a passenger to Tomahawk, Colo., by Sept. 5, 1876, to keep its charter. And this showing is scheduled for that fateful day of Sept. 5!

The Silverton Western Movie Festival is a benefit for the Silverton Standard newspaper.

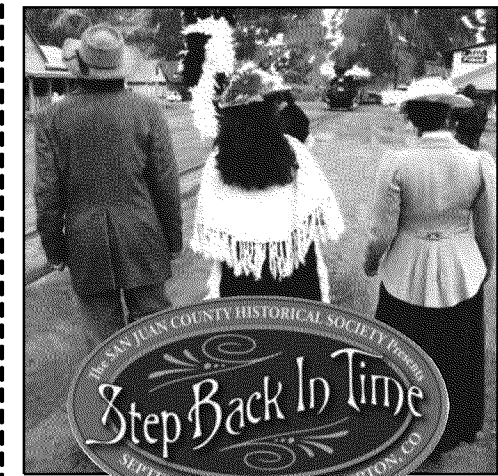
Admission is by donation only. Shows start at 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday night.



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acting like folks
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coming to town

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coming to town
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Alma House Archive Building at 7pm Monday Aug 10
Hope to see you!

4TH ANNUAL SILVERTON WESTERN MOVIE FESTIVAL — SEP. 4 & 5, 2015

Passengers Wanted for “A Ticket To Tomahawk”
Back by Popular Demand!

HELI-SKIING, from Page 1

because we have been encountering increasing issues,” Brill said. Recent low-snow years have ruled out a lot of terrain and other areas are too avalanche-prone.

“We have plenty of terrain but we’ve been unable to use it due to avalanche conditions. It’s too dangerous. We’ve been unable to place people on it primarily for safety reasons. The majority of our terrain is high alpine, very steep and with very little moderate terrain.

“Basically we’re trying to reduce the unnecessary risk to our staff and guests,” Brill said, and to improve visitors’ experiences.

“Guests go home unhappy,” Brill said. “So what we did was asked the BLM to swap high-elevation hazardous terrain in the northern part of the county with lower elevation.”

He said some avalanche control work is done using explosives under permit but he described it as “very limited in scope.”

Brill also addressed criticism that rich elitists are getting access to the best backcountry skiing at the expense of mere locals.

“The majority of our customers that are paying \$179 for heli-skiing are ordinary folks. The majority of our guests fit the motif of Silverton. In our parking lot you rarely see Audis or Volvos or things like that. They’re normal people.”

And Brill said the noise disturbance is not a big deal either.

“A majority of people really had no idea we’d been operating in Bonita, Ross Basin, Poughkeepsie,” Brill said. “It’s not a huge noise issue even though those areas are adjacent to areas with a lot of backcountry activity.”

And Brill said that the BLM has actually received no noise complaints about his operation.

“The areas we’re interested in swapping see very little use,” Brill said. “County Road 2 gets very little skier traffic; it’s the least-used backcountry ski area. You can go a week or longer without seeing tracks up at King Solomon.”

But Brill said “it’s not surprising there are people in opposition” to the heli-skiing plan.

“Some were in the same position in 1999 when we tried to get this going and generally were opposed to whatever Silverton Mountain might want to do.”

He discounted concerns about “bombs raining down” on back-country skiers.

“The reality is we try to be a good neighbor,” Brill said. “If we see backcountry skiers about to get to the top of the run we fly someplace else. We managed to ski these areas for years without any complaints.”

Brill advised that the community “remove emotions from the discussion and just talk about what we’re trying to do and what we’re not trying to do.”

He said the overall volume of ski traffic is not great.

“Typically these areas would see less than 30 days of use over the course of the winter.”

And he said County Road 2 residents Joe Jepson and the Brokerings are supportive of the plan.

“Their houses are right in an area we would be flying over to reach the terrain.”

And Brill said “the biggest reason we need this” is the viability of maintaining operations in December and January.

He pointed out that February and March are peak season.

“It’s gotten to the point we may be unable to base a helicopter at

Silverton Mountain in December and January. We don’t want to have to cut the helicopter, because it keeps a lot of people employed. If we don’t have the terrain we need to condense heli-skiing to February and March.”

Brill said that about 50 percent of his guests heli-ski for a run or two.

“What makes us unique in many ways is having the helicopter skiing,” Brill said, and he worries about the impact on season ticket sales if he has to cut back.

“In the end, will there be some impact to some people? Yes. Will that be an impact for a majority of people? No.”

The public weighs in

County Board Chairman opened up a public hearing on the matter by saying there will be “no debate, but we will take input. We want no argumentation. Just give us a statement.”

Backcountry skier Jeff Bailey said “we’re up there a lot” and “we’re concerned about the west side of Cement Creek.”

He also pointed out a lot of wildlife such as lynx are in the area.

“We ask that the areas on the west side of Cement Creek be removed from further consideration.”

(Brill had already indicated he did not want to use that terrain.)

Tyler George expressed concern about “using explosives above us” and he said there were a lot of unanswered questions.

Chris George, owner of the St. Paul Lodge at Red Mountain Pass, said he’s petitioned the BLM in opposition to any expansion of heli-skiing.

“I’m concerned about the BLM being allowed to grant carte blanche a permit without consideration of the fact that a lot of the land within that purview is private land — patented mining claims.”

George added that “we all know Aaron has provided a lot of business in the community with his operation.”

George said he’s opposed heli-skiing ever since “I’ve been in the ski business in 1967 when I first came to this country. I don’t want to ski out of an area I didn’t ski into. Ed LaChappelle and Don Bachman nearly kicked my butt for even thinking about heli-skiing.”

George said that “Aaron’s problem is not a new problem. It’s already driven off three very professional organizations.”

Bill Alsup, who grooms a large portion of the county’s vast snowmobile trail system, said “I’m probably in the backcountry more than anyone.”

He said in his routine grooming up Cunningham Gulch “I never see ski tracks above the junction of the Stony Pass road. I see snowmobile tracks. Nobody goes there.”

Kim Eisner, Cunningham Gulch property owner, said she has “never been bothered by the noise. It’s no problem for me at all.”

Jackie Kerwin of Silverton advised more appreciation for what Silverton Mountain has done for the town.

“I saw Aaron come into town and he was not just trying to cram this down everyone’s throats. He made sure he talked to everyone he could.”

Kerwin asserted that there were “seven” persons opposed to the ski area.

“If Aaron Brill did not start his

business when he did the library would be in a very bad place,” said Kerwin, who is the town’s librarian.

“Not only did he bring us Silverton Mountain Ski Area, but he makes sure that the guys he hires are honest, good people. A lot of teachers and schoolchildren come from the guides that Aaron brought in. He never tried to be sneaky.”

She pointed out that when Silverton Mountain ski area was first proposed “a certain number of people commented how search-and-rescue and the ambulance service would be taxed” with the burden of more injuries in remote areas.

“Aaron Brill has his own EMT medial staff,” Kerwin said. And the concerns have not materialized. And some of his staff and the helicopter itself have been instrumental in search-and-rescue operations unrelated to the ski area.

“This is a big county,” Kerwin said. “There is a lot of room.”

Nicole Bellman, of Silverton, however, said she opposed the plan.

“There is enough below-tree-line terrain below the chairlift,” Bellman said. “Asking for more terrain that we backcountry skiers use is just ridiculous.”

And she accused Brill of “using safety to tug at the heartstrings of the BLM and Silverton,” which she claimed was a “false pretense.”

Noah Chutz of Silverton said there has been confusion with the process, with a lack of clarity about the exact proposal.

“I think this proposal should be sidelined,” he said.

Jeremy Yanko of Silverton said “it’s been huge to lay down the clarification here of where Aaron wants to go.”

Peter Dever of Silverton, who sometimes works up at the St. Paul Lodge, made his feelings clear by explaining his response to a Telluride-based heli-skiing operation that operates on Red Mountain.

“The helicopter from Telluride? I mooned that helicopter four times last year.”

Jim Lokey, president of the Silverton Snowmobile Club, said his only concern is “that we continue to have access to all that terrain,” which will apparently be the case.

Amy Grogan said “there’s a real simple solution here. They’re in very inaccessible areas. Let’s just keep it that way so we don’t have a conflict.”

Grogan said the heli-skiing above the County Road 2 corridor “could inhibit backcountry skiers. There’s a lot more people skiing off County Road 2 than some people have said.”

Bill MacDougall, who described himself as having “lived here a while,” said “I strongly support what Aaron’s doing. I totally agree there’s not enough information on the specifics.”

MacDougall said he recalled the “first meeting in 1999” to discuss the proposed Silverton Mountain Ski Area.

At the time the town was at a standstill in the winter months.

“We now have a winter economy, children in our school and we have restaurants open. I strongly believe we need to look at the bigger picture. Aaron Brill is supporting us economically.”

MacDougall said that any heli-skiing has to be “regulated appropriately.”

But he said his experience has

been that the Silverton Mountain staff is “very, very good.”

“My number one goal is to make our town a viable community,” MacDougall said. He said the ski area is much more important than day skiers “if you look at the welfare of our community as the number-one priority for the county.”

Marc Kloster, manager of Silverton Guides helicopter operations, said he supports the swap of permitted terrain.

“Keeping the helicopter around keeps me employed,” he pointed out. “The new terrain is in an area that I truly believe gets very limited use. We already look for back country skiers” and work to avoid them.

“For me, living here is my livelihood, and I want to see more people come,” Kloster said. “My main goal is to stay here and have everyone else succeed because of us. I think we provide a great service to the town.”

He pointed out the helicopter is routinely used for avalanche mitigation and search and rescue.

Bob Degrosso has worked at Silverton Mountain for 11 seasons.

He said part of the success depends on the long-term relationships with clients who stay for weeks. And that there’s something special about what the Silverton Mountain team is doing.

“There are standards in the world of guiding that people think we need to attain. What we do up there is so unique, there’s no program like it. We’re out there on a daily basis helping people. I’ve spent endless hours in that helicopter in that terrain where so many said it couldn’t happen. We do it. We are the people behind the scenes that do it on a daily basis and it’s very rewarding.”

“I came here in 2001 to help build the chairlift,” said Grady Ham. “It’s undeniable, the change to the community. We’re asking for a change to grow our business. If we work together we can accommodate this multiple use. It’s not like we want to inundate and take away the beauty of the backcountry. We can responsibly use it together. That’s the way to go.”

John Poole expressed skepticism of the plan.

“Some places maybe should be left alone,” he said.

Melody Skinner of Silverton said she understands the concerns of backcountry skiers.

But she suggested that not all backcountry skiers are as pure as the driven snow.

“I keep finding illegal trails being built, or trails widened to make illegally built ski runs. This isn’t being done by Aaron.”

She urged that people be pro-business and work with the BLM “on the details of the winter business we need.”

Jim Buickerood, public lands coordinator for the San Juan Citizens Alliance, said he had “concerns about modification of the permit until we know for sure that the current stipulations and operation plans are fully being followed.”

County Board Chairman Kuhlman allowed Brill to respond to some of the comments.

Brill said that private property inholdings are a valid concern.

“We operate in an environment with a lot of private property, but we navigate around those private property holdings,” Brill said.

As for the concerns about blasting, he pointed out that strict protocols are in place and have been for the last 10 years.

And Brill said the maps released by the BLM did cause some misunderstandings.

“I agree there is a lot of confusion up front.”

He said there is no intent to use any terrain on the west side of Cement Creek, across from the ski area.

“Even if they gave us approval we would not use Prospect, Corkscrew, or Minnihaha or the west side of County Road 110.”

2 of 3 commissioners supportive of changes to heli-skiing areas

County Commissioner Pete McKay said he has been “a supporter of Silverton Mountain for 15 years” and he still is. “I am not in favor of changing any of the existing areas. In 2007 we dealt with this same very issue. We decided the area that Aaron was flying was a good compromise. The County Board should write a letter to the BLM saying it’s opposed” to the proposed modification.

But the other two county commissioners were not going along with McKay.

“I need more information as far as the map I’m seeing,” said Commissioner Scott Fetchenhier.

And he questioned whether the areas in dispute are getting much use at all.

“I don’t see many ski tracks back there. Some of those back areas, I’m pretty convinced, are not being used heavily.”

But Fetchenhier acknowledged the issue was “a tough thing” given the mounting pressure on the backcountry, with more wintertime use.

“Everywhere we go we see cars parked everywhere. The backcountry is being used much more than just five years ago.”

But Fetchenhier said “I’m in favor of supporting Silverton Mountain’s access to some of those areas. Not many people are using it.”

Commissioner Kuhlman acknowledged that, “as Pete (McKay) said, we’ve been here before.”

Kuhlman said he too has been supportive of Silverton Mountain.

“I went to court for him (Brill),” Kuhlman said.

He said the issue to some extent is “quality vs. quantity. How much quantity can we stand? Are we going to end up like a Yellowstone where you have to sign in? You may seen Cinnamon Pass one way and Engineer Pass the other with a BLM guy charging for it. You think they wouldn’t do it?”

Kuhlman said the county has not been presented enough information on the proposal.

“We’ll ask the BLM to look at this more deeply and I will endorse your project,” he told Brill.

How to comment

Site specific written comments on the heli-skiing permit modification must be received by Aug. 17. They may be sent to BLM Tres Rios Field Office; Attn: Jeff Christenson, Recreation Planner, 2911 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323. Or e-mail j-christianson@blm.gov.

Town population increases by 1

Shawn Merrill and Lisa Richardson are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Ida Bloom Merrill, on July 9, 2015. She came out a happy, healthy mountain girl at 7 lbs.12 oz., and 20 1/4 inches.

We would like to take a moment to thank the many great friends in town who have been more like family than friends to us here lately. Ever since news began to spread that we'd be bringing a new little girl into this world, the outpouring of generosity and support has been nothing short of remarkable.

We are so very grateful for the many gifts and well wishes that we've received along the way. All of the meals to welcome us home have been most delicious and a tremendous help. It's an amazing feeling to have the support of an entire town.



"We are very excited at the opportunity to raise our daughter in a town that's filled with so many wonderful people. We feel blessed and privileged to call Sil-

verton home and look forward to sharing many great years to come with all of you. With much love, Lisa and Shawn

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STOTT, from Page 2

few autos and trucks on the road which burned oil and its gasoline derivative.

In 1905, Durango was rich in coal, and it still is. Coal was what was burned in all locomotives of the Santa Fe, whose main line was south of Farmington, and east of Gallup. It still is, but it is now the BN&SF, and parallels Interstate 40 for many miles. The Santa Fe was seriously considering building a line from their main line, north to Durango to tap the rich coal seams. (Gallup New Mexico, was named after a favorite Santa Fe conductor).

The Denver and Rio Grande wanted to get there first, so it built a 50-mile branch to Farmington in standard-gauge. Mistake? Stupid? Maybe, but it lasted for 18 years.

Since the standard-gauge line from Farmington needed to access Durango there had to be some arrangements made to accommodate both gauges.

Not only that, but how does one get a standard-gauge locomotive and cars into a standard gauge line, which it is totally isolated from any other standard gauge line by hundreds of miles? The answer was that three rail tracks were laid from Carbon Junction, several miles south of Durango, into Durango, and into the Durango yards.

Standard-gauge locomotives were brought in piece meal to Durango, over the narrow-gauge lines from Alamosa, and assembled in Durango. Standard-gauge cars had narrow-gauge trucks placed under them to get them to Durango.

The Santa Fe never built north to Durango, or even Farmington. Had they done so, the Denver & Rio Grande would have been handy to haul the coal half way to their main line. Durango coal is still used to fire not only the Durango & Silverton, but is trucked to the Cumbres & Toltec at Chama, N.M., to fire their locomotives. By 1923, it became obvious that the standard-gauge Farmington Branch was an absurdity, so it was converted into narrow gauge, and the three rail tracks were converted into three-foot narrow gauge.

For 18 long years, Durango had three rail tracks, and cars and locomotives of standard as well as narrow gauge.

For the next 47 years, narrow gauge served Farmington, Aztec, and a few stations along toe way. To this day, heading south from Durango, shortly after crossing the New Mexico State Line, on the east side of the river, one of the line's water tanks still stands boldly.

Don Stott is a former resident of Silverton.

LETTERS, from Page 2

chatted with other groups of OHV visitors who have also stated they will go elsewhere if that happens.

Thank you for the current hospitality. Don't keep OHVs out of town. Doing so will keep us and many others from visiting Silverton.

— Richard and Kay Powell, Terry and Hilda McLeod, Dan and Lanell Smith, Liz and Dicky Morris, Bill and Linda Falcott, Alex and Linda Kalinowski, Charles and Liz Street., Mike and Jeanna Spletstosse, Don and Nancy Barnett, Ron and Linda Read, Texas visitors

EPA plan is really a ‘Superfund blitzkrieg’

Editor;

I came to Silverton this summer to enjoy my retirement, appreciate nature and prospect the mountains for unique minerals. I came here to enjoy a simple life with no TV and no politics, but unfortunately that has changed. Your EPA dilemma has caused my blood to boil.

Based on my 47 years of experience as a professional geologist, it appears to me that the EPA is setting your town and the area up for a possible Superfund blitzkrieg.

In regards to your meeting with the EPA on June 23, Mr. Hestmark's (EPA representative) statement "we don't have an agenda" is either ignorant naivety or an outright falsehood. I am certain Mr. Hestmark's hydrologists have advised him what's going to happen when the Red & Bonita portals and plugged and the "grand experiment" begins with unknown and foreseeable results and possible negative consequences.

Here's the scenario that will occur based on my experience:

Following the plugging, the exfiltrating water will be retained behind the bulkheads, accumulating at a rate of approximately 500 gallons per minute. As the

water backs up, it will begin filling all connected mine workings and bedrock voids and fractures. As the water level inside the workings continues to rise, it will accumulate head pressure at a rate of 1 PSI per each 2.31 feet of vertical rise. As the water continues to migrate through and fill interconnected workings, the pressure will increase. Eventually, without a doubt. The water will find a way out and will exfiltrate uncontrollably through connected abandoned shafts, drifts, raises, fractures and possibly from talus on the hillsides. Initially it will appear that the miracle fix is working.

"Hallelujah!"

But make no mistake, with in seven to 120 days all of the 500 gpm flow will return to Cement Creek. Contamination may actually increase due to disturbance and flushing action within the workings.

The "grand experiment" in my opinion will fail. And guess what Mr. Hestmark will say then?

Gee, "Plan A" didn't work so I guess we will have to build a treatment plant at a cost to taxpayers of \$100 million to \$500 million (who knows).

Reading between the lines, I believe that has been the EPA's plan all along. The proposed Red & Bonita plugging plan has been their way of getting a foot in the door to justify their hidden agenda for construction of a treatment plant. After all, with a budget of \$8.2 billion and 17,000 employees, the EPA needs new, big projects to feed the best and justify their existence.

I would recommend that anyone who owns a home, property water well or spring in the Cement Creek drainage take water samples ASAP to protect themselves from groundwater changes that may be caused by the EPA plugging operation!

God bless America! God bless Silverton, Colorado. And God protect us from the EPA.

— Dave Taylor, Farmington

EDITOR, from Page 2

info on the situation to one of his staffers. But nothing came of that either.

Colorado and Silverton seem to be enjoying good times now, largely due to a booming tourism business this summer.

We appreciate our visitors, but when they've got to go, they've got to go.

Rehabilitation of the historic Miners Union Hospital is progressing rapidly and soon it will be time for the Standard to temporarily abandon its coveted office in the old operating room, with its huge window facing Boulder Mountain.

Probably starting Monday, Aug. 3, I will be operating down the hall in what is the KSUT broadcast room, where the translator for Four Corners Public Radio covers an area from Molas Pass to Red Mountain Pass on 91.1 FM.

I may be stuck there for a week or two, so you may see some stories that sound like Car Talk reruns.

I know you've heard this before but I will risk saying it again: Things appear to be moving toward a final completion of the town's long-awaited fiber optic link to the outside world.

Remember that big party last October to celebrate its arrival? Not here yet, though we all witnessed the dramatic show put on by the helicopter acrobats stringing the fiber along the Tri-State power lines late last summer.

Now it appears that CenturyLink and EAGLE-Net are collaborating to beat the Sept. 30 cutoff of federal funding for the subsidized initiative to improve high-speed Internet access to rural communities.

However there is a lot of last-minute intrigue going on and worries about the terms involved and how much it will truly open up a market for low-cost high-speed Internet access for residents and businesses.

I certainly won't be making any promises but the deal would involve CenturyLink completing a line to its switching facility on Blair Street.

From there more than 20 strands of fiber would feed into the fiber-optic loop around downtown that was installed three years ago.

And from that loop it would also be accessible to other Internet Service providers who could then offer competitive and reliable Internet and other telecom services.

That's the theory.

With all the people in town this summer I seem to notice constant slowdowns in Internet service throughout the day, particularly during train time and with a reliable grinding halt each day at around 5 p.m.(perhaps businesses backing up files or something of batching out credit-card machines).

For too long Silverton has been paying too much for too little bandwidth.

Change may be coming soon, but we cannot yet declare that the EAGLE-Net has landed.

Mark Esper is editor and publisher of the Silverton Standard & the Miner.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The Town of Silverton Board of Trustees, during a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting of July 27, 2015, approved and adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2015-06 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING A MORATORIUM ON THE PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION FOR A VACATION HOME RENTAL PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 2015 - 04.** This Ordinance will take effect immediately.

Michelle Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING A MORATORIUM ON THE PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION FOR A VACATION HOME RENTAL PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 2015 - 04.

WHEREAS, the Town of Silverton, in the County of San Juan and State of Colorado (the "Town"), is a statutory authority duly existing under the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado and its Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Town Board of Trustees (the "Board") have been duly elected and qualified; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2015, the Board passed Ordinance 2015-04 establishing a temporary moratorium on Vacation Home Rental applications with an expiration date of August 7, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the diligent work by Staff to evaluate Town's regulations and that of other communities who are also experiencing a significant number of vacation rental requests, requires more time to present findings and recommendations to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board will also need time to consider Staff recommendations and code modifications and determines that an extension of the moratorium for an additional 90 days is necessary to provide the necessary time to finalize regulatory changes to Town codes concerning vacation home rentals; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that property owners will not be unduly prejudiced by the imposition of additional time to the temporary moratorium.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF SILVERTON, COLORADO that:

Section 1. Findings and Intent. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Board.

Section 2. Extension of Temporary Moratorium. The moratorium concerning applications for vacation home rentals enacted by Ordinance 2015-04 is hereby extended by ____ days. Town staff is directed to decline to process, review or approve any such applications during the moratorium period.

Section 3. Investigation and Evaluation. During the moratorium, Town staff, working with the Town Attorney, shall investigate and evaluate the issues associated with use of property as vacation rentals and to develop a new and amended regulatory structure that adequately address all such issues.

Section 4. Police Power Finding. The Board hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity, and improve the order, comfort and convenience of the Town and the inhabitants thereof.

Section 5. Authority. The Board hereby finds, determines and declares that it has the power to adopt this Ordinance pursuant to: (i) the Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act, Article 20 of Title 29 C.R.S.; (ii) Part 3 of Article 23 of Title 31, C.R.S. (concerning municipal zoning powers); (iii) C.R.S. § 31-15-103, C.R.S. (concerning municipal police powers); (iv) C.R.S. §31-15-401 (concerning municipal police powers); (iv) C.R.S. § 31-15-501 (concerning municipal power to regulate businesses); and (v) the powers contained in the Town of Silverton Municipal Code.

Section 6. Effective Date; Expiration. As per Town of Silverton Municipal Code Section 2-16-5, the moratorium imposed by this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Town Board because the Town Board hereby finds this Ordinance to be a case of special emergency and the immediate effectiveness of this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the Town and the inhabitants thereof. This ordinance shall expire on October 26, 2015, unless repealed prior to that date or extended, if necessary, as determined by the Town Board.

Section 7. Severance Clause. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Town Board hereby declares it would have passed this ordinance, and each part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, regardless of the fact that any one or more parts, sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED ONCE IN FULL on this 27 day of July, 2015.

ATTEST:

Michelle J. Hamilton Town Clerk	Christine M. Tookey Mayor
------------------------------------	------------------------------

ELECTION NOTICE

On November 3, 2015, San Juan County voters will be electing directors for the San Juan County Board of Education. There will be four seats open on the school board this November in the Coordinated Election. Two seats will be for two-year terms and two seats will be for four-year terms. Candidates must be a registered voter and a resident of the school district for at least 12 consecutive months before the election. Candidates must electronically file, via the TRACER online disclosure system, a Candidate Affidavit with the Secretary of State's office within

10 days of becoming a candidate. <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/CampaignFinance/filing.html> Petition packets will be available at the Silverton School office: 1160 Snowden St, and can begin circulation on August 5, 2015. 25 valid signatures are required. Petitions must be notarized and delivered to the San Juan County Clerk's office, Ladonna Jaramillo: 1557 Greene St, on or no later than August 28, 2015 by 4:00 p.m.

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on July 30 and Aug. 6, 2015.

Our ads get fast results!

An ad for a lost dog was placed last week, and on Monday, the owner reported the dog had returned of its own accord! Call 387-5477 to place an ad. E-mail editor@silvertonstandard.com

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the members of the general public that the San Juan Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the San Juan County Courthouse at 1557 Greene Street, on August 12, 2015 at 10:00 PM to receive public comment on the proposed amendments to San Juan County Ordinance 2008 – 01 as hereby published.

NOTICE is further given that all persons may appear and present oral & written testimony regarding this project prior to or at public hearing. Interested persons may visit the Office of the San Juan County Administrator located at 1557 Greene St. Silverton, CO 81433 (or call 970-387-5766) during regular business hours to review the proposed ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2015 - 1

AN ORDINANCE OF SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO AMENDING ORDINANCE 2008-1 WHICH ADOPTED VARIOUS CODES REGULATING THE ERECTION, CONSTRUCTION, ENLARGEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, MOVING, REMOVAL, DEMOLITION, CONVERSION, OCCUPANCY, USE AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN SAN JUAN COUNTY

Whereas the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, Colorado previously adopted Ordinance 2008-1 regulating construction and building within San Juan County; and

Whereas fireprotection and fire fighting services are provided by two distinct entities within San Juan County, the Silverton – San Juan Volunteer Fire Department and the Durango Fire Protection District (and its predecessors the Durango Fire Authority and the Hermosa Cliffs Fire Protection

District); and

Whereas, despite the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County in adopting Ordinance 2008-1 that each entity providing fireprotection and firefighting services within San Juan County would have jurisdiction and authority to enforce the provisions of the County Fire Code within its own service territory, some uncertainty may exist with regard to such authority which uncertainty the Board hereby wishes to eliminate; and

Whereas the Board of County Commissioner has determined that certain revisions and clarifications need to be made regarding the enforcement of the County fire code adopted pursuant to said Ordinance in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of the public within San Juan County;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO as follows:

1. Section 9 of Ordinance 2008-1, which modified the enforcement provisions contained in Section 103.1 of the International Fire Code as adopted by San Juan County, is modified to read as follows:

A. Section 103, Department of Fire Prevention, shall read as follows:

Section 103.1 General. San Juan County shall utilize the services of the Silverton - San Juan Volunteer Fire Department and of the Durango Fire Protection District, each within its respective service territory, as the County Bureau of Fire Prevention. The Chief of the Silverton – San Juan Volunteer Fire Department and the Chief of the Durango Fire Protection District, together with such other

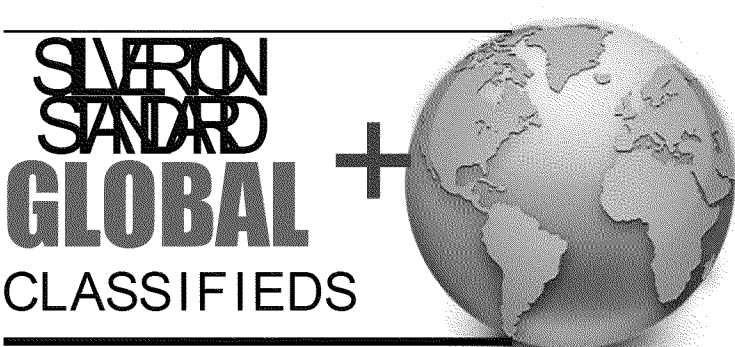
individuals as either may designate or may previously have designated in writing, are hereby appointed to serve as County fire code officials with full authority to make all inspections pursuant to, to enforce the provisions of, and otherwise to exercise any rights, powers or authority granted by, the County Fire Code. Such authority is hereby granted to each such individual within the respective service territory of the fire department, district or authority he or she serves and within such other territory within which said officials is or has been authorized to act by any intergovernmental or other agreement between either of the respective fire departments, districts or authorities and any other entity or by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County.

2. Any or all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances or resolutions of San Juan County, in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, provided, however, that the repeal of an Ordinance or parts of Ordinances of the San Juan County shall not revive any section of an Ordinance or Ordinances heretofore repealed or superseded.

3 Whenever the provisions of this Ordinance or of the codes adopted pursuant hereto shall conflict with the provisions of any other San Juan County code, standard, resolution or regulation, the provisions hereof shall apply.

4. After adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, the full text of this Ordinance shall be published one time in the Silverton Standard newspaper prior to becoming effective. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty days after such publication.

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on July 30, 2015.



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(from Red Mountain Pass to Cascade Creek)
(970) 387-5477
editor@silvertonstandard.com
www.silvertonstandard.com

DURANGO & SILVERTON
Narrow Gauge
Railroad Schedule

To Silverton:

8 am.	Leave Durango
11:30 am.	Arrive Silverton
8:45 am.	Leave Durango
12:15 pm.	Arrive Silverton
9:30 am.	Leave Durango
1 pm.	Arrive Silverton

To Durango:

1:45 pm.	Leave Silverton
5:15 pm.	Arrive Durango
2:30 pm.	Leave Silverton
6 pm.	Arrive Durango
3 pm.	Leave Silverton
6:30 pm.	Arrive Durango

Metal Prices

Wednesday, July 29, 2015	
GOLD	1096.0
SILVER	14.81
PLATINUM	985.00
PALLADIUM	615.00
COPPER	2.3965
NICKEL	5.0916
ZINC	0.9849
LEAD	0.7741

PUBLIC NOTICE
Town of Silverton Clerk/Treasurer
Home Occupation Application-1406 Cement Street

The Town of Silverton hereby gives notice to receive public comment concerning an application for a home occupation within the R-2 Multiple Family Residential District. Todd Bove, on behalf of the owners, Daniel and Debra Bove, is requesting the granting of a business license to operate a ski and bicycle rental and repair service within a proposed detached, enclosed garage. The property, Block 1, Lots 11-12, Silverton Town-site, includes an existing single-family residence at 1406 Cement Street; the proposed garage would be located adjacent to the residence at the rear of the lot and oriented towards 14th Street.

NOTICE is further given that prior to issuance of the business license, all persons may submit written comments regarding this proposed home occupation. Interested persons may review the application in Town Hall, 1360 Greene Street or by calling 970-387-5522, Ext. 16 during regular business hours. Written comments should be directed to Michelle Hamilton, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Silverton, P.O. Box 250, Silverton, CO 81433 and received on or before Thursday, August 6th.

The County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in whole and in part, received in response to this Request for Proposals at any time prior to the execution of a written contract. For additional information or to receive a complete Request for Proposal Packet please contact San Juan County Administrator William Tookey at 970-387-5766 or sanjuancounty@frontier.net.

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on July 16, 23, and 30, 2014.

h o m e s f o r S a l e



Victorian, 939 Mineral Street, 2 bd 1+half bath, wood stove/ propane heat, \$249K. Contact: silverton-house@outlook.com (7/30)

EXTREME SKIERS' DELIGHT - 10+ acre mining claim with direct access to thousands of acres of un-tracked powder. 10 mins north of Silverton, just off Hwy 550. \$350,000. Mitch Hobby, Keller Williams Realty SW Assoc, 970-739-1705. Details at DurangoEscapes.com (7/30)

Own a summer silver mine (good road access-15 minute summer drive to Silverton) and a winter ski cabin site (with all permits) 20 minutes on skis from Highway 550: <http://www.silvertongold.org/>

f o r r e n t
4 BED/4 BATH HOUSE
FOR RENT. \$2000/MONTH.
970.903.4132

FOR RENT OR SALE
Beautifully restored historic building in downtown Silverton, Colorado. 840 sq. ft. storefront with an 875-square-foot studio apartment. Totally renovated from top to bottom. E-mail: livethedreamsilverton@yahoo.com

h e l p W a n t e d

Help wanted: mature, reliable, experienced house cleaners. Villa Dallavalla, 387-5555 or stop by.

HELP WANTED: Temporary cleaning job (week or two). Call Richard 970 946-3853. (7-30)

FULL TIME AND PART TIME
wait person. year round. Apply at Brown Bear

PUBLIC NOTICE
SAN JUAN COUNTY,
COLORADO

Retail Marijuana Products Manufacturing Facility License Application
August 12, 2015
Pursuant to the Laws of Colorado, Ceres Group LLC, 191 Oak Ridge Place, Durango, Colorado 81301, is requesting the License Authority of San Juan County to grant a Retail Marijuana Products Manufacturing Facility License at 3815 COUNTY ROAD 2, Silverton (Middleton), Colorado. A public hearing to consider this application will be held on August 12, 2015 during a meeting that begins at 8:30 AM in the County Courthouse Commissioners' Meeting Room, 1ST Floor, 1557 Greene Street in Silverton. Any interested party may appear to be heard either for or against approving the application. Written comment concerning this application should be filed with Bob Nevins, Town/County Planner, P.O. Box 250, Silverton, Colorado 81433 by 5:00 PM Thursday, August 6th.

Anvil Mountain Housing Development Request for Qualifications/Proposal
Background and information: San Juan County is seeking proposals to build single and multi-family housing for all or part of the Anvil Mountain property, a 16 acre development that includes affordable/attainable housing.

Water and sewer infrastructure is in place at the majority of the lots and remediation of the site was completed in 2010

Since 2010, efforts have been made to advertise the site and to secure a developer. Those efforts have been unsuccessful, due in part to the perceived market demand, and the Great Recession. Outreach to all area housing organizations has also occurred seeking potential partnerships, ideas and resources.

San Juan County is releasing this Request for Proposals to now find persons interested in conducting small builds on sections of the site, that can be pieced together so as the combined effort meets the deed requirements. San Juan County will also consider any proposals for the development of the property in total. Approved builders will (1) work closely with the County to determine that their property development and sale or rental of properties will meet necessary income qualifications where applicable. (2) They will also be responsible for the marketing of their developed properties. (3) They will be responsible for all contracts and agreements with homebuyers/renters after income eligibility is confirmed. The County will work with a homebuyer agency to income qualify buyers/renters and develop a homeowner pipeline.

Scope of Work items for consideration:
San Juan County has identified a host of items desired in the Anvil Mountain development proposal. Approximately 34 lots are area available for a combination of approximately 50 single-family and

multi-family dwellings. A minimum of 60%, (approximately 30 units), of the resulting residential units will be occupied by households with incomes at or below 125% of area median income, and at least one-third of those, (approximately 10 units), will be affordable to households with incomes at or below 80% of area median income. As many as 40%, (approximately 20 units) of the resulting residential units may be sold at market rate. Currently, incomes at or below 125% median income, range from \$53,125 to \$94,125 depending on household size. Incomes "at or below 80% median income", range from \$34,000 to \$56,400 depending on size of household.

San Juan County is open to creativity in project proposals that consider the following:
• Unique residential designs that compliments the current Silverton architecture and/or San Juan Counties mining heritage
• Energy efficiency to handle Silverton's harsh climate and keep utility bills affordable.
• Project phasing
• A mix of rental units and homeownership to meet demand and required income levels
• Negotiable land price and flexible payment plans to address real estate uncertainty

Submission of Proposals:
San Juan County expects that applicants will provide examples of past work. The proposal format should generally follow the outline shown below and be no more than 10 pages not including attachments. All proposals should be submitted via e-mail to sanjuancounty@frontier.net or hard copy, sealed in an envelope, to William Tookey at P. O. Box 466 Silverton, CO 81433 no later than 4 P.M. , Friday, August 28, 2015. All proposals must have Anvil Mountain RFP in the subject line or written on the envelope.

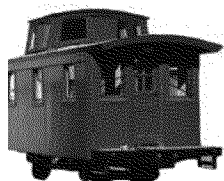
Proposals shall be evaluated on the following criteria:
1. Expertise
a) Experience/ qualifications in residential construction
b) Experience in construction proj-

ects in San Juan County or other similar mountain communities
c) References from similar projects
d) Any governmental/housing agency experience

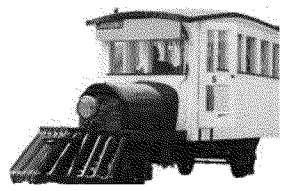
2. Quality of Proposal and Project Approach
a) Communication/collaboration with partners (other possible developers)
b) Quality and suitability of home design (examples of similar designs developed).
c) Work plan including:
1. Number of proposed units
2. Lots desired
3. Rental or homeownership
4. Single or Multi-Family
5. Median income target
d) Creative solutions

3. Project Schedule
a) Timeline (including phasing or milestones)
4. Financing
a) Ability to complete the project by providing a pro forma with costs, financing and final sales price.
b) Evidence of access to construction financing.

Questions concerning this RFP should be addressed to William Tookey, San Juan County Administrator via email sanjuancounty@frontier.net. San Juan County will notify all responders no later than 30 days upon the complete evaluation of all applicant proposals. San Juan County representatives may want to meet with submitters of some proposals to access viability and fit with other potential bids.



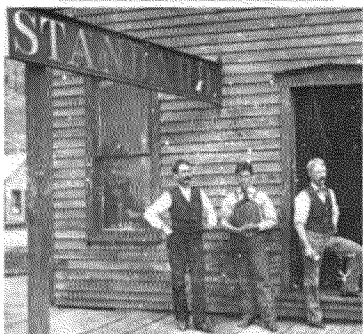
Silverton Standard & CABOOSE



Thursday, July 30, 2015

"The Past is not dead. In fact, it's not even past." — William Faulkner

WAY BACK!



135 years ago
From the July 31, 1880 edition
of the *La Plata Miner*:

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING.

On Thursday evening, about seven o'clock, while Mr. M.J. Grow was taking his tea, he was suddenly summoned over to his shop by his partner, Mr. Meyer. Upon arriving there he found one of his men who helped to do his slaughtering, in a great state of excitement, gesticulating wildly, and utterly unable to articulate anything comprehensible. After quieting him somewhat he succeeded in finding out that Siegel had accidentally shot a man by the name of Lucien D. Henderson, at Mr. Ambold's slaughter house. It appears that Seigel was about to butcher a steer for his employer, Mr. Grow, and, as is his custom, proceeded to shoot the animal before dressing it. He aimed and fired but the steer did not drop, and he supposed the bullet had missed fire, and put another cartridge in the gun and recapped it, and took aim to fire again, when at this point the steer dropping, he laid down the gun without firing or uncocking, and proceeded to dress the steer. After finishing the job, he picked up his gun and putting it under his right arm, carrying his ammunition in the other, proceeded to walk over to the Ambold slaughter house to see how the boys were getting on with their butchering. He stood in the door joking with the boys and making some natural movement with his arm and accidentally discharged the gun, which it appears must have been cocked all the time. The ball just grazed the stomach of one of the work-

Grand Imperial, 1951



San Juan County Historical Society photo
The Grand Imperial shortly after its 1951 renovation by Winfield Morton of Dallas. The exterior was prominently pink at this time.

men and passed obliquely into the shoulder of a young man by the name of Lucien D. Henderson, who was in a sitting posture on the other side of the slaughter house, killing him almost instantly.

There was not the slightest evidence to show that any ill feeling existed between the two men, or between the two slaughter house gangs. On the contrary, the best of good feeling prevailed, and moreover, Mr. Siegel had no acquaintance with the deceased, not having spoken ten words to him in his life.

125 years ago
From the August 2, 1890 edition of the *Silverton Standard*:

3 CHARGED WITH ORE THEFT.

Sheriff John M. May and deputy Harry LeeRoy made a trip to Poughkeepsie gulch on Thursday to arrest Donald Brown, Frank

McGinnis and John Bell who are accused of stealing ore from the Saxon mine. They arrived in town with their prisoners about dark. The Saxon is owned by a company, Mr. Dunham of Ouray, being their representative here. This spring some 30 sacks of ore, valued at \$1,500 were taken from a drive where they had been stored and sacks of country rock put in their place.

100 years ago
From the July 31, 1915 edition of the *Silverton Standard*:

BULL ATTACKS JOHN SORGE.

Last Sunday afternoon John F. Sorge, who conducts a dairy just south of town, was attacked by his large Jersey-Durham bull, and by a miracle escaped with his life.

The bull had broken out of his pasture and Mr. Sorge was endeavoring to drive him back using his umbrella as a persuader, when the bull turned on him, knocked him down and began to butt and trample him. Fortunately when the bull was quite young, Mr. Sorge had sawed off his horns and to this face he owes his life. His cries were heard in the lower part of town and several rushed to his rescue. Among the first arrivals were county Commissioner Gail Munyon, J.D. Lambert, John Prisk and W.D. Logan. They threw a piece of bailing wire to Mr. Sorge who was still on the ground under the bull and he slipped it through the ring in the bull's nose and then tied it around his leg. This held him firmly bound when Mr. Sorge made his escape.

Plumber Charlie Scheer is busy these days putting in the new Blair street water main. Bert Lugg, Tom Brown and Arthur Lang are his assistants while Alderman Karl Thompson keeps his eagle eye on the work as the representative of the Town board. Karl

occasionally gives an order and then Charlie begins to pray.

60 years ago
From the July 29, 1955 edition of the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*:

MOVIE TO BE FILMED HERE.

C.P. Broughton, operations director for a new Edmund Granger production to be filmed here in August announced at a banquet at the Grand Imperial Hotel Monday that Robert Stack, Virginia Mayo and Ruth Roman had been contracted to play lead roles in a new movie to be made here. The film, "Great Day in the morning," will be produced for RKO.

45 years ago
From the July 31, 1970 edition of the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EYES D&RGW.

The National Park Service Thursday proposed five alternative including a big two state regional National Recreational Area to preserve "some vestige" of the Denver and Rio Grande Western narrow gauge railroad in the San Juan Basin.

The tracks between Antonito and Farmington could be taken up by November by the Denver and Rio Grande under the abandonment of the line, ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission early this year. This abandonment affects the entire narrow gauge system of the D&RGW outside of the Silverton branch connecting Durango and Silverton — upon which an abandonment attempt in the early 1960s failed.

Looking Back

10 Years Ago
July 29, 2005

This weekend the San Juan County Historical Society celebrates its first 40 years of existence with a grand opening ceremony for its new Mining Heritage Center and a screening of the film "Castles in the Clouds."

Both the Society and its museum project were born at a dinner meeting of the Silverton Chamber of Commerce on July 22, 1964. Designed to bring businessmen and prominent local leaders together, the meeting was poorly attended and a pessimistic discussion turned to a number of projects that had been languishing for years, including the establishment of a museum in the decrepit former jail next to the county court-house.

15 Years ago
July 27, 2000

As told by John Ross:

The American Legion Post No. 14 has a "new" vehicle with quite a history. The 1941 M2 A1 half-track originated from the Trinity site during the first A-Bomb tests. ... It then passed into the hands of Frank Montanati ... Montanati drove the vehicle through an adobe wall in New Mexico before bringing it to Silverton for various tasks associated with his mining claims.

The vehicle then passed into the hands of Jim Leader who used it to haul supplies for the construction of a cabin in Deer Park. And the vehicle remained in Deer Park for eight years.

25 Years Ago
July 26, 1990

Keith Daniel reported his mule, "Midnight," lost. The mule may come to town or may go elsewhere.

Personal ad: We understand Don Stott is a practicing thespian! And in public. — The Club

30 Years Ago
July 25, 1985

P&G Mining of Silverton closed Monday on the purchase of the Pride of the West Mill in Howardsville. The mill was purchased from Tusco Inc. and a 12 page document on file at the San Juan County courthouse shows the purchase to be covered by a note for \$1.8 million due and payable on January 1, 1988.

"Leave us alone. Don't bite the hand that feeds you."

Businessman Scott Fetchenhier ended a prepared speech to the town board. ... His speech was prompted by a letter to Silverton merchants from the building inspector. The letter said that the proliferation of T-shirts and other merchandise hung in open doorways might be considered a sign and a form of advertising, and therefore would be in violation of the sign ordinance.

40 Years Ago
August 1, 1975

Viola May Curtis, 72, the lady who for the past 13 years had tended the emergency fire phone and who had manually activated the twelve o'clock siren, died shortly after the Wednesday noon signal.



"Death notices for delinquent subscribers will not be inserted."
—an extract from the *Gladstone Kibosh*,
January 5, 1901

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